

REMARKS

The applicants originally submitted claims 1-17 in this application. In this response to the current Office Action, the applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 10 and 15. Accordingly, claims 1-17 remain pending in this application.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. More specifically, per claim 8, the drawings do not show a keypad, a keyed display, a keyless display, an LCD display screen and a touch screen. Also, per claim 10, the drawings do not show a first signal channel and a second signal channel. Also, per claim 15, the drawings do not show a substrate connected to the cover.

In response to the objection to the drawings, the applicants have amended claim 8 to recite that the intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus is configured to be operably connected to various inputs devices, such as a keypad and a touch screen. Such input devices are conventional input devices that are used with the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus, but themselves are not features of the applicants' invention. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that such input devices are not required to be shown in the figures.

Also, in response to the objection to the drawings, the applicants have amended claim 15 to recite that the intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus further comprises a generally planar structure connected to the distribution frame cover. Support for the amendment is found in the applicants' specification, e.g., at paragraph 0032. No new matter has been added.

Finally, with respect to claim 10, the applicants respectfully note that the first signal channel and the second signal channel are not features of the applicants' invention, but rather are conventional signal channels that connect to the termination ports, which also are conventional and are not a feature of the applicants' invention. The termination ports are cross-connected via jumpers, which also are conventional and not features of the applicants' invention. As

recited in claim 10, the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus operably connects to the termination ports. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that it is not necessary to show the first and second signal channels in the drawings.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pimpinella (U.S. Patent No. 5,461,693). The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the foregoing claim amendments and the remarks set forth below.

The applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 10 to clarify existing distinctions between the applicants' invention and the cited art. More specifically, the applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 10 to recite that the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus couples or is coupled to the distribution frame external to the distribution shelves, which make up the bays of the distribution frame. Support for the amendments can be found in the applicants' specification, e.g., in paragraph 0032 and in Figs. 3 and 4. The applicants have not added any new matter.

Nothing in Pimpinella discloses or suggests an intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus coupled to the distribution frame external to the shelves. As discussed in the applicants' specification, e.g., in paragraph 0031, conventional distribution frames, such as the distribution frame in Pimpinella, have individual overlays or faceplates mounted directly on the face of the individual interconnection panels, which interconnection panels are recessed within the individual shelves. Nothing in Pimpinella discloses or suggests an intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus, much less such an apparatus being coupled to the distribution frame external to the shelves. The applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 10 to clarify this distinction between the applicants' invention and Pimpinella.

In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 10, the applicants respectfully submit that Pimpinella neither anticipates nor makes obvious the applicants'

invention as recited in claims 1 and 10, as amended. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pimpinella.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Colombo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,498). The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the foregoing claim amendments and the remarks set forth above and below.

The applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 10 to clarify existing distinctions between the applicants' invention and the cited art. More specifically, the applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 10 to recite that the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus couples or is coupled to the distribution frame external to the distribution shelves, which make up the bays of the distribution frame. Also, the applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 10 to recite that the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus couples to the shelf controllers, which are coupled to the distribution frame system controller. Support for the amendments can be found in the applicants' specification, e.g., in paragraphs 0028-0029 and in Figs. 3 and 4. The applicants have not added any new matter.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus is disclosed in Colombo et al. as reference characters 20 and 22. However, in Colombo et al., the reference characters 20 and 22 do not refer to an intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus, as in the applicants' invention. Rather, reference characters 20 and 22 refer to a system controller and a display screen, respectively. See, Colombo et al., e.g., at col. 3, lines 28-62. As discussed in the applicants' specification, e.g., in paragraphs 0028-0029, the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus communicates with the shelf controllers, not the system controller. The shelf controllers, in turn, communicate with the system controller.

In Colombo et al., the system controller 20 includes software that informs a technician of a desired optical fiber routing path between the bays 15. The display 22, which is coupled to the system controller 20, displays the desired routing path of the particular optical fiber. Various lights 32, which also are coupled to system controller, light up to trace the desired routing path. The lights 32 for tracing a fiber routing path are completely different from the status indicators on the termination port overlays and/or faceplates in conventional distribution frame shelves, as well as the signal buttons (92) and status indicators (94) in the applicants' invention. The applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus does not physically trace the routing path of an optical fiber connected between bays. In Colombo et al., the termination ports, which reside inside the bays 15, are not shown. In Colombo et al., the focus is on tracing fiber routing paths around and between bays, thus the inside of the bays, and the termination ports and their overlays and/or faceplates, are not shown.

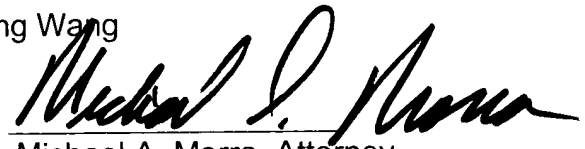
The applicants respectfully submit that nothing in Colombo et al., including the cited elements 20 and 22, discloses or suggest the applicants' invention as recited in claims 1-17, as amended. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Colombo et al.

The applicants submit that all claims now are in patentable form, and respectfully urge that all the claims be allowed and the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to call the attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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